

## **Presentation of Potential Projects for Inclusion in Former ACM Smelter Refinery Land Use Plan**

In 2016 Cascade County was awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accomplish three tasks:

Task One - Develop access plans for Art Higgins Memorial Park and Trail Connection Strategies within Operational Unit One (OU-1).

Task Two - Develop a Land Use Master Plan for the former ACM Smelter/Refinery site in Operational Unit Two (OU-2).

Task Three - Explore Long Term Management Options for operational administration of future infrastructure installations and the remediated landscape on the former ACM industrial site within OU-2.

Task 1 was completed and summarized in the October 2018 report titled *Art Higgins Memorial Park/Trail Access and Connectivity Plan* prepared by the consultant, Water and Environmental Technologies (WET).

In support of the land use planning, several meetings were held in Black Eagle in 2017 to obtain land use ideas from local residents for redevelopment of the former ACM industrial site, OU-2. A stakeholder group, consisting of community members, local government and landowners, contributed to the discussions. In November 2018, WET completed a draft report detailing options for future land use based on the community input. The report was nearly completed when two additional land use development proposals were brought to the County Commissioners.

The two new potential projects include an amphitheater and a ski hill. The amphitheater would be larger than the amphitheater proposed in the draft plans and located in a slightly different area. It would be suitable for hosting concerts and similar events, with proposed siting along the Missouri River in the area that was formerly residential housing for smelter employees. The ski hill project is more conceptual but would potentially include two beginner ski runs, snow making capabilities, two tow lifts and a warming hut. The hill could also be used for ski races, tubing and may have an additional terrain park. The proposed location would be along the eastern side of the hill where the smelter stack was formerly located.

The Cascade County Commissioners believe it is important to re-engage the original stakeholders and the Black Eagle community to honor their previous work and recommendations on how to redevelop the former ACM industrial site. Since the report was not finalized, the proponents of the two newly proposed developments were asked to present their project ideas to the community for consideration. A virtual public meeting was hosted on March 8, 2021.

An additional meeting will be held at the Black Eagle Community Center to present these projects to the community. The public meeting is scheduled for **April 7 at 6:30PM** at the Black Eagle Community Center. The potential projects will be presented to the public by the project proponents and an opportunity for comment on the projects will follow the presentation.

A 30-day comment period on these potential projects will continue through April 9, 2021. Comments can be provided to the Cascade County Commissioners or to Elizabeth Erickson at 406-723-1523 or [eerickson@waterenvtech.com](mailto:eerickson@waterenvtech.com).